

and all the other larvae, except for one, were preparing for the fourth skin change.

By 10th November, all but one had reach their final instar and were of the dark form. The 13th larva was well behind in its development and so was discarded. The remaining larvae continued to feed up well and by 13th November the largest measured 105 m.m.s + when crawling. By 14th November, one of the larvae had stopped feeding and was beginning to make experimental burrows. This procedure was of variable duration among the larvae, but by 17th November the last of the 12 larvae had burrowed into the peat. This had been placed to a depth of four inches at the bottom of the cylinder cage and the larvae mostly made full use of it and burrowed right to the floor. The first one to pupate did so on 21st November.<sup>1</sup>

On 27th November, the pupae were removed and placed on the surface of fresh peat. All 12 were found to be alive and apparently healthy. The pupae were then removed to a room where the temperature ranged from 13-18°C. By the end of January, none of the pupae showed any sign of further development, although all still appeared quite healthy, and so they were placed back in the boiler room. The first moth to emerge, a male, did so at c. 19.00 on 13th February. All of the moths emerged either in the evening around this time or very early in the morning. The remaining moths, four males and five females, emerged between this date and 17th March. Wingspans ranged from 87 m.m.s to 101 m.m.s.

<sup>1</sup> An interesting point is that of all the larvae reared (including those shared among members of the Croydon Natural History Society), only one was of the green form.

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CALLICERA AENEA FABRICIUS (DIPTERA, SYRPHIDAE) IN NORTH HAMPSHIRE. — One ♀ specimen of this handsome rare species was captured hovering over some piled up birch logs lying at the side of a woodland ride in full sunshine surrounded by a growth of bracken (*Pteridium aquilinum*) at Odiham Common, North East Hampshire, on the 11th July, 1977. Later that same week on the 15th July, 1977, I was most fortunate to see another ♀ example of this species in an open area adjacent to young coniferous woods in which several large oak and pine boles were lying on their sides in various conditions of decay just north of Benyon's Enclosure, near Mortimer West End, North Hampshire. This specimen, which was in almost perfect condition, I intentionally did not catch in order to observe some of its habits which in this specimen was to hover up and down above the oak boles, exploring the occasional crevice in them and sitting on the boles in the full sun. When disturbed it flew off at speed high into the sky, but soon returned to alight once again on the oak bole in the position it had held before being disturbed. — S. R. MILES, 25 Northanger Close, Alton, Hants.